

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for emphasizing numerical data contained in an electronic document, the method comprising:

determining whether a request to emphasize all of the numerical data in the electronic document has been received; and

in response to receiving the request, locating all of the numerical data contained within the electronic document and emphasizing the located numerical data.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the electronic document comprises both text data and numerical data and wherein the request comprises a request to emphasize only the numerical data.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the numerical data comprises numerals and numerals expressed as text data.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the numerical data may be expressed in any of a plurality of natural languages.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the numerals expressed as text data may comprise string numbers, ordinal numbers, or roman numerals.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein emphasizing only the numerical data comprises adding a highlighting attribute to the located numerical data.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the highlighting attribute comprises a color attribute.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein a unique color attribute may be specified for each of the string numbers, the ordinal numbers, and the roman numerals.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:  
receiving a request to deemphasize the located numerical data; and  
in response to receiving the request, removing the emphasis from the located numerical data.
10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, will cause the computer to perform the method of Claim 1.
11. A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of Claim 1.
12. A system for emphasizing numerical data contained in an electronic document containing both text data and numerical data, the system comprising:  
a word processing application program operative to permit the editing of the text data and the numerical data within the electronic document; and  
a dynamically linked library configured for use with the word processing application program, the dynamically linked library operative to receive a request to emphasize all of the numerical data in the electronic document and to locate all of the numerical data contained within the electronic document and emphasize only the located numerical data in response to receiving the request.
13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the numerical data comprises numerals and numerals expressed as text data.
14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the text data and the numerical data may be expressed in any of a plurality of natural languages.
15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the numerals expressed as text data may comprise string numbers, ordinal numbers, or roman numerals.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein emphasizing only the numerical data comprises adding a highlighting attribute within the electronic document to the located numerical data.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the highlighting attribute comprises a color attribute.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the dynamically linked library is further operative to allow a unique color attribute may to specified for each of the string numbers, the ordinal numbers, and the roman numerals.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the dynamically linked library is further operative to receive a request to deemphasize the located numerical data and, in response to receiving the request, to remove the emphasis from the located numerical data.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein removing the emphasis from the located numerical data comprises removing the highlighting attribute from the located numerical data.